I am obliged to you for bringing to my notice that persons living outside municipal limits are sometimes nominated as members. Your suggestion will be borne in mind that as far as possible persons not living within the municipal limits should not be nominated as members.

In regard to the prescribing of Tamil as a compulsory subject in vernacular schools there, a report has been called for from the Director of Public Instruction and as soon as it is received, the matter will be considered. Any other points of yours will be separately considered by Government.

75. Needs of the Vilavancode taluk.

MR. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Member, Vilavancode taluk*) said that agriculture was the mainstay of the people of Vilavancode. But there were no sufficient facilities for irrigation in the taluk. In successive sessions of the Assembly, the representatives of the taluk had urged for the improvement of channel irrigation in the taluk. Nothing was, however, done so far. One of the most urgent irrigational needs of the taluk was the construction of a dam in Chittar No. 1. This dam would irrigate close on 8000 acres of lands in the Neyyattinkara and Vilavancode taluks, while the cost of the work would come to only about three or four lakhs of rupees. Another important irrigational project was what was called the Valliyattumukham scheme. A third project was what was called by Mr. Horsely the Pirichani Reservoir scheme. Stringent instructions had to be issued to the Chief Engineer to investigate these schemes and to take them in hand as early as practicable. Equally important for the taluk was the restoration of tanks and other minor irrigation works. These had also to be attended to without delay.

Other needs of the taluk were :

(1) Raising of the level of the lane from Mankattukadavu to Parthivapuram. The road had only to be raised three or four feet. It was not an expensive proposal at all. Though the same subject was brought forward at former sessions of the Assembly, the statement of action on the representations showed that the Government and the Chief Engineer had not yet made up their minds on it.

(2) A dispensary at Puthukada or Tengapattanam. The Medical Board had recommended a dispensary at either of the places, and Government had only to sanction the recommendation.

(3) A hospital at Kuzhithura. The member had made the same representation at the previous session of the Assembly, when the Dewan promised to make enquiries about the matter the next time he visited Kuzhithura. Unfortunately, he had no occasion to visit the place since. The member hoped that he would go to Kuzhithura soon and make the enquiries he had promised.

(4) A grant-in-aid to the Mahatma Gandhi hospital at Kuzhithura.

(5) A grant-in-aid to the Vishavaidyasala at Martandam. In regard to the grant-in-aid, the Vaidyan found himself in a dilemma. The municipal council told him that because the Vaidyasala served the people of the Vilavancode taluk rather than of the municipality he should apply to the Government for grant. Government on the other hand told him that because the Vaidyasala was situated within the municipality he should apply to the council for help. But as a matter of fact the Vaidyan was rendering very good service to the public and he deserved the help of Government.

(6) Abolition of tolls in the Padantalummudu market. This was really an evening market held on every Wednesday and Saturday evening. It was not a day market at all. The tolls in this market had therefore to be abolished.

(7) Conversion of the Martandam-Panachamudu road, Kaliyikavila-Andukodu road, and the Arumana-Panachamudu road into cartable roads and the construction of a road over the Arumana Panakara canal.

(8) Constitution of the Vilavancode taluk into a separate constituency for the Legislative Council. It would be enough if the proposal was taken up the next time when the reorganisation of constituencies was considered.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: In regard to the most important item of your representation, the construction of a dam across the Chittar stream, and the basin or the reservoir in the Chittar valley, the Chief Engineer expresses the opinion that such a scheme is feasible, but before he can pronounce upon the advisabiliy of undertaking it, it will be necessary first of all to take levels and make calculations, to go into the question of the water available in the watersheds, then take up the question of the Ayacut that it will irrigate and see whether the results of the scheme will be commensurate with the expenditure that it will involve. All these things require very careful consideration and investigation. Until such investigation is made it will be a foliy on the part of the Government to make a promise in the matter.

As regards the restoration of tanks, the Chief Engineer hopes very soon to have definite working plans for the restoration and conservancy of chiras and channels all over Travancore.

In the matter of a hospital at Kuzhithura although I did not visit Kuzhithura for this express purpose, since we met last year and talked the matter over, I made a very careful enquiry and I found that Government had once contemplated opening a dispensary at Kuzhithura. This was a few years back, when they negotiated with the London Mission working there, who were opening a hospital near by. Then Government subsidised the mission hospital at Martandam. Martandam and Kuzhithura are as you know practically the same town.

You want a grant to be given to the Mahatma Gandhi hospital which has just been started. Let it establish itself and prove its efficiency and popularity. Then I shall ask the Inspecting Medical Officer to examine it and ask the Board about the need for a grant.

The establishment of a dispensary at Putukada or Thengapattanam will be taken up with the general question of medical aid in Travancore.

I am sorry to hear that the municipality has thrown you back at Government in the matter of helping the Vishavaidyasala. We have to follow a definite rule on the subject and after much consideration Government came to the conclusion that in the case of Vaidyasalas situated within municipalities it is the duty of the municipalities to afford assistance and that the obligation does not lie upon the Government. I dare say you have your representatives on the municipal council and I am sure if they move in the matter, the council will give the question their consideration.

As regards raising the level of the lane leaving from Mankattukadavu the estimate is under preparation by the Section Officer, Vilavancode. When the Chief Engineer receives it he will scrutinise it and report to Government.

76. Needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group I*) said that stringent instructions should be issued to the Public Works Department to attend to the minor irrigation works in the taluk. About the Aruvikara dam the Chief Engineer had reported that it was not a very practicable or useful scheme. But the member wanted that the scheme should be investigated once again before it was given up. If, however, the Aruvikara project was found to be impracticable, arrangements should be made for storing more water in the Kodayar dam and for opening the Right Bank Channel for the use of the Neyyattinkara taluk. In regard to this suggestion, it was often stated that there was not enough water in the dam for diversion to Neyyattinkara. But from the pattas issued to the land-owners in Neyyattinkara, it could be seen that at least at that time it was contemplated that the Kodayar water should benefit the lands in the Neyyattinkara taluk as well. It would even do if the Chittar scheme, proposed by the member for Vilavancode, was brought into fruition.

So far as communications in the taluk were concerned, a bridge should be constructed over the canal near the Kulathur Chavadi on the Udiyankulangara-Kulathur Chavadi road. The Amaravila-Ottasekaramangalam road should be raised for one or two furlongs near Kannamkuzhi and a good culvert should be put up.

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